

I-5 Open Space Project - 4.15.03 Public Workshop Comments

Alternative One (30+ votes) was preferred over Alternative Two (one vote) as the preferred scheme to develop. The following comments were noted during the public meeting. Additional information was noted on comment sheets.

Circulation/Access Routes

- The Blaine alignment for circulation on Alternative 1 would be congested with cars and pedestrians-Need two separate circulation routes at Howe and Blaine
- Option two access routes are too steep for accessible paths. A circuitous route lets you see more
- 'H' configuration for path that follows both Howe and Blaine is desirable
- Make path wide enough to accommodate other activities
- Like the passive/active mix of uses-pathways should be direct between Lakeview and Franklin
- Crosswalk safety is important
- Pedestrian access at Lakeview to Howe stairs is dangerous-decrease width of street to slow traffic down
- Stair use- could be accessible 24 hrs.- Parks to coordinate with SDOT
- 350 people signed a petition to make stairs accessible- incorporated into Urban trails – East/West access needs both ADA access and stair
- Lakeview highly used as bike route
- Any street narrowing should recognize bike use on Lakeview

General/Specialized Park Activities- Unprogrammed/ Programmed Space

- In favor of passive activities adjacent to residential. Passive areas are generally wasted space, but active areas are used often
- Noisy parks are conducive to activity
- Don't like using the word 'Passive', for non programmed park areas which might include active uses like playing catch and Frisbee
- Active use of space not a good idea at this site-particulate matter is of concern-could cause health hazards
- Volunteer Park and other large parks with space are better suited for playing catch and frisbee
- Expand area for seating and other unprogrammed space at Lakeview Blvd. entry
- This is a unique park – not like other open flat parks-prefer unique and specialized activities

Mountain Bike Trails

- Mountaining bike areas can be well landscaped
- Bike course is flexible and can fit in small areas
- Bike course should include better connection from east to west (uphill-downhill) - perhaps between small and large dog area

Off-Leash Area (OLA)

- .2 Acres (approx. 10,000sf.) is enough for small dogs

- Small dog could be moved to another area and expand the large dog area
- Make the large dog area larger
- How much parking required at other OLA's (ie. Woodland Park)
- Picnicking near dog areas is unpleasant-(odor, activity)
- OLA is not required by Pro Parks Levy – Flat areas could be used for other activities
- Look at hard surface for OLA

Other

- Landscape should reflect in-situ conditions-allow vegetation to grow where it grows naturally
- Security lights in the parking lot to the south of the site are blinding at night – Can they be shielded?
- Like the effect of the security lights- create beautiful aura and shadows
- Some expressed interest in providing a restroom; most expressed interest in a port-a-potty of some kind
- Alternative 1 includes more diversity of space
- Combine activities-mingle functions
- (On street?)Parking should be timed for 2 hours
- Move existing parking to other side of path
- A climbing facility would allow climbing in the winter

Written Comments from Comment Sheets

Stairs/Pedestrian Path Connections and Alignment

- The concept of connecting the two arteries (Howe and Blaine) into one is very interesting. If you could find a strong connector, it might help concentrate people in times of little use.
- Option #1 (two paths) is good
- The traffic connections are more “pleasant”
- If nothing else is ever built here, this must be it!! This is where the greatest portion of the budget should go.
- Crosswalks are key-currently crossing from off and on I-5 ramps
- Accommodate both direct pedestrian east-west connections as well as an ADA and strolling path that allows “meandering” through the park
- Direct connection to streets, meandering/ADA/bicycle commuter path through
- Create an ‘H’ walkway
- Street crossings the northwest corner by the on-ramp is dangerous-both for people & bikes. Please address this

Bicycle Connections

- Most commuters won’t use connections through park. They will use Eastlake or Lakeview
- Lakeview to Franklin is an important bicycle commuter connection. A trail exit behind the Gates Foundation parking lot to connect to southern trail link on WSDOT land. Jog stair line over to put more area south of the stairs.
- I am interested in how bikes and dogs work together. It could be very exciting!
- Provide for north/south bicycle connection; possibly provide tunnels under pedestrian east/west routes.
- Bike commuters utilize the Eastlake bike lane.
- My concern is more with mountain bikers being able to get to their area

(maybe they have to walk their bikes on the path) than with bike commuters (with the exception of the e-w connection, which bike commuters would use (more so than a n-s connection))

- Very important
- Great idea, the slopes lend themselves to this use. Just make sure you involve ‘expert’ bikers to make the trails challenging for different levels of bikers.
- Trails areas are approximately 60% landscaping
- Option 1 is preferable. Active uses should be at the south end of the site-away from residential structures
- Consider tunneling beneath pad corridor to encourage interaction-pads view cyclists
- No
- I’m not sure that there’s a need for 3 separate MTB areas-I would like to know more about what would be going on in each place/why a need for 3

Off-Leash Area

- Even though I don’t like dogs, this seems like a necessary amenity
- An OLA should be at least 1 acre. Divisions into a small dog area and a large dog areas are good but the small dog site should be only .2 acres, and the large dog area should be at least .8 acres
- Since it will be intensive use throughout the year, the OLA should be expanded
- On alternative surfaces, consider 3/8 round washed pea gravel or cedar shavings such as ‘hog’s fuel’ that is used at Mary moor OLA. Let’s see the off-leash area be about 10,000 sf.
- Larger OLA, small OLA in “potential” parking space
- Consider constructed wetland to deal with dog wastes-do not terrace per

Alternative 2 as too expensive- a budget eater

- Good use of space
- Expand so that it's bigger than 1 acre, but small than on Alt. 2
- There are many responsible dog owners in this area and an off leash area is much needed-not just for dogs, but it serves to build community. People meet, talk, and interact. It's a very neighborhood, social opportunity
- OLA should be larger-at least 1.5 – 2 acres
- I like the location/size of this. I want to know more about what it will be made of (concrete?soil?) and how it will be cleaned up
- Enlarge area-reduce size of small dog OLA and enlarge large dog OLA. Need neighborhood OLA-have been waiting for 2 years since Volunteer Park OLA closed. Ken Bounds promised

Passive Open Space/View Areas

- Not a priority. This is an active space
- There is a natural opportunity for the stairs to have landings that are also viewing platforms
- Lighting is very beneficial in the winter months
- Lights-the security on surrounding
- Landscape: do not contradict found environment-Use aridity and found oasis to emphasize how the micro-ecology of the site is created by its roof
- Don't underestimate the importance of this – No, its not the most pleasant space, but it does serve a use as a 'buffer' for nearby residents, as well as those "passing through"
- I like the 'passive' area bordering the residential area in the north part. I like the amount of open space in Alternative 1
- We should be compassionate of their desire if they are compassionate of our desire to have OLA

Parking

- Not necessary in large numbers. At night there is a lot of parking available
- Parking seems to attract teenage partying
- Please minimize it
- Is important but should be limited to a certain amount of time: for example, 2 hour parking limits should be posted to increase turnover
- Limit parking to 2 hours
- 34 spaces is enough-No 'potential' parking
- For stair climbers
- Keep it minimal-We are in a city, and this park should serve those who live in the neighborhood. There's no need to encourage more car traffic
- I like 2 parking lots/2 access-don't make them huge, but more parking spaces would be a good idea. However, not at the expense of reducing the "passive" area (as in "potential")

Amenities, Benches, Restrooms, Etc.

- Restrooms and drinking fountains are a must
- Viewing platforms
- Benches around park to view the various activities would be great
- Self-cleaning toilet to service homeless from other funds? Pedestrian bridges or crosswalks across Lakeview, traffic calming
- Necessary
- Do these exist on Concept 1? I don't see them, but I would like to. Especially: restrooms, drinking fountains, benches

Public Art

- It would be wonderful if the art could be powerful enough to become a 'magnet' for people just like the troll in Fremont, which has almost become a tourist attraction. The unique space offers an opportunity for a strong piece.
- Climbing wall and trails are opportunities for sculptural, artful forms that could represent a special ecosystem

- Should be interactive-art that people can touch, climb, or pass through, etc. art should also include a “sense of nature” wildlife, forest habitat, etc.
- Incorporate public art near the off-leash area
- Ask artist to consider contacting Prof. Meseguer of the Polytechnic University of Valencia in Spain regarding his sound eating tubular bell arrays
- Can’t wait to see John’s ideas
- I favor a lighting or illuminating of the signature colonnade as an element

Other

- I think the climbing rock is a great idea!
- Areas under freeways are not place for recreation. Public health concern
- Climbing wall-this is an excellent spot for climbing, especially in rainy weather. Please explore this.
- Security lights will benefit OLA and security issues
- I like the mixed use/interactivity ideas of Concept 1. Want to hear more about the climbing wall, but I like the idea
- “Build it and they will come”-Exercise assets: Lights from bottom to tenth (better than existing lights) –Crosswalks with islands, water fountains, bulletin boards, ‘exercise stops (art), sit ups, push ups step ups, jump rope, weights (art), bike trail, ‘ropes course” area